

**Site Fact Sheet**  
**Little Elk Creek**  
**Area-Wide One Cleanup Program Pilot Project**  
**Elkton Farm**  
Zeitler Road  
Elkton, MD 21921

ORIGINAL

**Property Description.** The Elkton Farm Site is located two miles northwest of Elkton, MD near the intersection of Routes 40 and 279. The Site consists of some 400 acres.

## **Property History**

- The Elkton Farm Site is approximately 400 acres, and has primarily been used as a livestock farm with much of the surrounding fields under cultivation.
- Triumph Explosives, Inc. purchased the Elkton Farm property in the early 1940s. Triumph Explosives used the "Firehole" approximately 40 acres of the Site off Zeitler Road for the disposal of off-spec and waste explosives from the plant. Accumulated waste was reportedly placed in drums, wetted with alcohol or ether, and burned in a shallow pit. Triumph photos from the 1940s show the Firehole burn pit, but the exact location of the pits was unknown.
- The current owners, the Herron Family/MARVA Ltd. Partnership, acquired the property in 1948. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Thiokol Corp. leased a one-acre parcel for rocket motor cleaning and recovery area. In the early 1980s, wastes from the Galaxy Chemical plant were also disposed and/or stored on the Farm. The Farm property is currently leased for commercial farming.

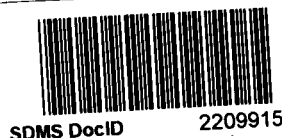
## **Environmental Investigations** are divided into (4) waste disposal areas:

**UNIT 1** consists of (2) areas where the owner stored hazardous waste, including ash from Thiokol (Unit 3), ordnance debris from Triumph Explosives, and waste from Galaxy Chemical.

**Status.** A Removal Action was completed at Unit 1 in 1992, where drums of flammables, hazardous waste, solid waste, and 10 tons of contaminated soil were removed.

**UNIT 2** is a World War II-era waste ordnance burn pit (the "Firehole") which was used by Triumph Explosives in the 1940s. The exact location of the Firehole was not known until May 2002, when MDE hired NAEVA Geophysics, Inc., to conduct a geophysical survey, which showed several distinct anomalies (east of Laurel Run and south of Zeitler Road) indicating that the Firehole is not one discrete area but rather a series of burn pits located across the property.

**Status.** In October 2002 and May 2003, MDE did PA/SI work under its EPA Cooperative Agreement identifying explosives, lead, mercury, and PCBs at the Firehole, and TCE in the groundwater. And, in December 2004 and January 2005, MDE used a remote geoprobe to collect subsurface samples in the suspected burn pits: the results are not yet available.



**UNIT 3** is a 1-acre parcel that was leased by Thiokol Corporation in the late 1950s and early 1960. Unit 3 overlays a portion of Unit 2. Thiokol Corporation constructed several small buildings, undetermined underground structures, and a network of steel gantries. Abandoned structures remain on the west side of the parcel. The facility was used to burn residual fuel and clean rocket motors for reuse, until it was abandoned after an explosion there.

**Status.** In May and June of 2003, MDE did PA/SI work under its EPA Cooperative Agreement indicating explosive compounds in the surface and subsurface soils and perchlorate in the subsurface soils on this site. MDE will conduct further investigation of this facility in 2004.

**UNIT 4** is a 55-acre parcel with contaminated groundwater either from past storage or disposal of waste solvents, or by disposal activities on the adjacent GE Rail Car property.

**Status.** In June and July of 2003, MDE did PA/SI work under its EPA Cooperative Agreement indicating that the groundwater contamination does not appear to be coming from Unit 4.

**Contaminants.** Chlorinated solvents have been found in groundwater. Explosives, perchlorate, lead, mercury, and PCBs have been detected in on-site surface and subsurface soils.

**Cleanup and Next Steps.** MDE is continuing site investigations.

## **Federal Involvement.**

- EPA is funding MDE efforts through a PA/SI Cooperative Agreement.
- In 1992, EPA performed a Removal Action at Unit 1.
- EPA has recently performed a Removal assessment at Unit 2.
- The Army Corps of Engineers has conducted a FUDS determination in the early 1990s, classifying the Site as a FUDS/PRP Site, which indicates an willingness to 'cash-out' using the DoJ Judgement Fund.
- In late 2004, MDE and EPA met with the Corps of Engineers to seek reconsideration of the Firehole as part of the FUDS site. We are awaiting that determination by the Corps.

**Lead Agency and Contacts.** MDE is the lead agency and will be conducting further investigation of this site under the PA/SI Cooperative Agreement with EPA.

### **EPA Contact**

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